

Attorney Docket No.: **ABLE-0021**
Inventors: **Secombes et al.**
Serial No.: **10/088,780**
Filing Date: **July 22, 2002**
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This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of the claims:

Claims 1-75 (canceled)

Claim 76 (new): A gene construct for protection of a fish against viral haemorrhagic septicaemia virus (VHSV) comprising:

a non-infectious DNA nucleic acid construct encoding a viral haemorrhagic septicaemia virus-neutralizing single chain antibody BU1 comprising Genebank Accession Number AF302092 with a DNA sequence

cagtgtgcta acatgagggc agtgtgtttg atgctgactg ccttattgat
gctggaatat gtgtgccgga gtgaccaggt gcagctgcag gagtcaggac
ctggccctcggt gaaaccttct cagtctctgt ctctcacctg ctctgtcact
ggctactcca tcaccagtgg ttattactgg acctggatcc ggcagttcc
aggaaataaaa ctggaatgga tggctacat aagctacgac ggtaccaata
actacaaccc atctctcaca aatcgaatct ccatcactcg tgacacatct
aagaaccagt ttttcctgaa gttgaaatct gtgactactg aggacacagc
tacatattac tgtgtaagag ggatctacta tggtaacgac tggtttgctt
actggggcca agggaccacg gtcaccgtct cctcagaagg caaatcttct
ggctctggct ctgaatctaa agtggatgac atcgagctca cccagtcctcc
tgcctcccag tctgcatactc tggagaaag tgcaccatc acatgcctgg
caagtcagac cattggtaca tggtagcat ggtatcaaca gaaaccaggg
aaatctcctc agtcctgat ttatgctgca accagtttg cagatgggggt
cccatcaagg ttcagtggta gtggatctgg cacaaaattt tctttcaaga
tcagcagcct acaggctgaa gatttgtaa gttattactg tcaacaactt
tacagtactc cgtacacgtt cggaggggg accaagctcg agatcaaacg

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tgaaatctgg aactgcctct gttgtgtgcc tgctgaataa cttctatccc
agagaggcca aagtacagtg gaaggtggat aacgccctcc aatcggttaa
ctcccaggag agtgcacag agcaggacag caaggacagc acctacagcc
tcagcagcac cctgacgctg agcaaagcag actacgagaa acacaaagtc
tacgcctgcg aagtcaccca tcagggcctg agttcgcccg tcacaaagag
cttcaaccgc ggagagtcat aagttagata tccat
encoding a secretion signal of transforming growth factor
beta linked to the 5' end of the single chain antibody
BU1 gene, said sequence being inserted into a
plasmid downstream a CMV promoter and upstream a poly
adenylation signal.

Claim 77 (new): A composition for passive immunization comprising the gene construct of claim 76.

Claim 78 (new): A method for prophylactically treating fish against viral haemorrhagic septicaemia virus comprising administering the composition of claim 77 to a fish via injection to the epaxial muscle below the dorsal fin of the fish.